

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 ITC-01 /104 W

-----311426Z 003723 /47

R 310813Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 468

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8300

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS-LEE KUAN YEW TALKS

1. SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW LEFT MANILA FOR TOKYO EARLY MAY 29 AFTER A 19 HOUR UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES WHERE HE HELD PRIVATE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. THE VISIT AND PRESIDENT MARCOS' COMMENTS AT THE AIRPORT AFTER SEEING OFF PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. LEE WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN THE MANILA MORNING PRESS OF MAY 30 AND 31.

2. ACCORDING TO MARCOS, THE DISCUSSIONS WITH LEE INCLUDED A REVIEW OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE ASEAN SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN AUGUST IN KUALA LUMPUR. AMONG THE ITEMS DISCUSSED
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WERE THE INVOLVEMENT OF JAPAN IN THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS OF ASEAN, AND THE STATUS OF THE 10 PERCENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD REDUCTION OF TARIFFS ON TRADE BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES. (INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA ARE NOT YET PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT, AND THEIR INCLUSION IS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SUMMIT MEETING.) MARCOS NOTED THAT ASEAN IS SEEKING FREER ACCESS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET FOR ITS EXPORTS,

INCLUDING SEMI-FINISHED AND FINISHED MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. ASEAN WOULD ALSO WANT ARRANGEMENTS TO GUARANTEE THE STABILITY OF ITS EXPORT VOLUMES AND ITS EXPORT EARNINGS. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS REPORTED THAT A NUMBER OF BILATERAL MATTERS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED SUCH AS A NEW TAX AGREEMENT, A PROJECTED INCREASE IN FLIGHT FREQUENCIES, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OIL PROCESSING AGREEMENT WHEREBY OIL FOR CONSUMPTION IN THE PHILIPPINES IS REFINED IN SINGAPORE.

3. SINGAPORE EMBASSY OFFICER STATIONED IN MANILA CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS' REMRAKS ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. HE ADDED THAT THE DETAILS OF THE AGENDA REMAIN TO BE DECIDED, AND THE TWO MEN DISCUSSED HOW ASEAN SHOULD BEST PROCEED TO REACH A POSITION ON THE AGENDA PRIOR TO AUGUST. SINGAPORE STILL HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT RAISING THE ISSUE OF GUARANTEED EXPORT EARNINGS WITH JAPAN. MARCOS IS PRESSING TO HAVE THIS TOPIC INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA, BUT LEE REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT THE JAPANESE RESPONSE IS SO LIKELY TO BE NEGATIVE THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO BROACH THE SUBJECT. STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA08300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770193-0218
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977053/aaaaacap.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2413805
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS-LEE KUAN YEW TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, RP, ASEAN, (LEE KUAN YEW), (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fccb428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009